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# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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## THE WATER SUPPLIES OF SHIPS.

WATER FOR DRINKING AND COOKING PURPOSES FURNISHED INTERSTATE VESSELS.

[Amendment to Interstate Quarantine Regulations. No. 7.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
*Washington, June 4, 1914.*

*To medical officers of the Public Health Service, State and local health authorities, and others concerned:*

The following amendment is hereby made to the interstate quarantine regulations promulgated by this department September 27, 1894, and amended August 17, 1905, June 24, 1909, May 15, 1912, October 30, 1912, December 9, 1912, and January 25, 1913, said amendment and regulations being in accordance with section 3, act of Congress approved February 15, 1893.

Article 3, General Regulations, is hereby amended by the addition of the following paragraph:

*Paragraph 16.*—No person undertaking to furnish water for drinking or cooking purposes to any vessel in any harbor of the United States, intending to clear for some port within some other State or Territory of the United States or the District of Columbia, shall furnish for such purposes water taken from the waters of such harbor, or from any other place where it has been or may have been contaminated by sewer discharges. Any person violating this regulation will be liable to a penalty of not more than five hundred dollars, or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both, at the discretion of the United States District Court.

W. G. McADOO, *Secretary.*

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## MINNESOTA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

REORGANIZATION WITH REARRANGEMENT OF THE DIVISIONS AND THEIR WORK.

Much of the efficiency of a department of health depends upon its organization. Proper organization facilitates the smooth running of the administrative machinery by the grouping together of related work, the removal of friction between bureaus and divisions, and the avoidance of duplication.

The recent rearrangement of the work and divisions of the Minnesota State Department of Health is of special interest, notably so because of the logical establishment of two major divisions of work—one having to do with the control of preventable diseases, and known as the "Division of preventable diseases;" the other having supervision over what are usually known as sanitary matters, such as water supplies and sewage disposal, and known as the "Division of sanitation."

For several years the Minnesota State Board of Health has carried on certain lines of work under three divisions, namely:

1. Division of epidemiology.
2. Laboratory division.
3. Engineering division.

It was believed that it would be an advantage for the diagnostic work of the laboratory to be closely associated with the work of the division of epidemiology.

It was also felt that the work of the engineering division should be conducted in cooperation with the study of certain water and sewage problems.

Taking these matters into consideration the board at its meeting April 14, 1914, made the following reorganization:

1. The work of the laboratory division was divided, placing that which relates to the diagnostic work of preventable diseases under the director of the division of epidemiology.
2. The engineering division, as such, was discontinued. Certain work relating to water, sewage, etc., was placed under a new division (sanitation) and an engineer from the engineering division was transferred to this new division.
3. The existing director of the engineering division was given the title of "consulting engineer."
4. The names of the two remaining divisions (the division of epidemiology and the laboratory division) were changed to "division of preventable diseases" and "division of sanitation."

The work of the department as now organized is conducted as follows:

General administration under an executive officer:

Divisions:

1. Preventable diseases.
2. Sanitation.  
Consulting engineer.
3. Vital statistics.
4. Accounts, records, etc.

The division of preventable diseases has to do not only with the field work and the handling of all reports of the occurrence of the notifiable diseases but with the laboratory diagnostic work relating to this group of diseases as well.

The division of sanitation has to do with the sanitary supervision of water supplies, sewage disposal plants, disposal of commercial waste, etc.

The consulting engineer advises on water supply systems, on sewage disposal plants and all other engineering matters relating to sanitary problems.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION AND THE CITIZEN.

Public health administration in a community is as extensive, and the health department is as efficient, as the people want it to be. Health administration can neither exceed to any great extent, nor lag far behind the wishes of the people. An interesting illustration of this is the experience of the city of Wilmington, N. C., during the last two or three years. Two years ago public meetings were held in protest against the extension of public health work, while recently a mass meeting rallied to the support of the health department in opposition to the expressed intention of the majority of the city council to curtail the department budget. An account of the recent citizens' meeting in support of the health department is given in the following letter from Prof. Stiles:

WILMINGTON, N. C., *June 1, 1914.*

The SURGEON GENERAL,

*U. S. Public Health Service, Washington, D. C.*

SIR: This evening there was held in Wilmington, N. C., one of the most remarkable public-health meetings I have ever attended. It was a citizens' mass meeting, called by prominent citizens and attended by 500 to 600 men, many of them among the most prominent leaders in the city and county.

It was called to consider the action of the city council in cutting down, by about \$5,000, the budget as presented by the county board of health and as approved by the county commissioners. This cut in the budget would result in a reduction of the two full-time health officers to one, a reduction in the number of the sanitary police, and an elimination of the sanitary engineer. For several years past there has been a considerable amount of lack of harmony in reference to the health work. The health office has had an uphill fight against various elements, but has increased in efficiency and activities, notwithstanding the opposition.

Two years ago two public protest meetings were held to voice public sentiment against the action of the health office. To-night the protest was against limiting the work and the expansion of the health office.

In the city council, the mayor and one councilman were in favor of the budget, while four councilmen expressed themselves against portions of it. A committee of citizens appeared before the council and requested the opposing councilmen to change their attitude. One councilman was won over, but three stood out against certain details in the budget. This action resulted in the meeting this evening. The council had been invited to attend, but only the mayor and one councilman appeared.

The meeting unanimously indorsed the budget as originally proposed, and provided for the appointment of a committee of 25 citizens to appear before the council to urge reconsideration of its action.

The meeting was the occasion of a calm discussion of the value of and necessity for health work. It was a meeting, not of a political party, but of heads of families, who